

DEC 31 2002

Dear Interested Party:

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is announcing the opportunity to submit grant applications for the Food Stamp Program: Program Participation Grants (FSP Program Participation Grants) for fiscal year (FY) 2003. A total of \$5 million is available for FY 2003, subject to appropriation. A copy of the Request for Applications (RFA), which provides all of the pertinent details regarding the submission of grant applications, is enclosed.

All 53 State agencies that administer the FSP, State or local governments, agencies providing health or welfare services, public health or education entities and private nonprofit entities such as community-based organizations, food banks, or other emergency feeding organizations may apply. Eligible applicants may use the money to support projects that develop and implement simple food stamp application and eligibility determination systems, or measures to improve access to food stamp benefits.

A copy of the RFA is also available online at <http://www.fns.usda.gov>, or by contacting Moira Johnston at Moira.Johnston@fns.usda.gov, or at 703-305-2515. If you are planning to submit an application for the FY 2003 FSP Program Participation Grants, please return the enclosed Letter of Intent to Submit an Application to Lynn Rodgers (mailing and e-mail address below) no later than January 24, 2003. You may return the Letter of Intent via regular mail, datafax number (703)-305-0913, or e-mail, to the attention of Lynn Rodgers. All completed applications must be received on or before 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, February 27, 2003. Applications should be addressed to Lynn Rodgers, Grants Management Officer, FNS, USDA, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 738, Alexandria, Virginia 22302.

All questions about the FSP Program Participation Grants or the grant application process should be directed to Lynn Rodgers in the Grants Management Division at (703) 305-2760, or via email at Lynn.Rodgers@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

/S/
Kate Coler
Deputy Administrator
Food Stamp Program

/S/
Lael J. Lubing
Director
Grants Management Division

Enclosure